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Urban District Council.

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# Annual Report

For 1923,

OF THE

## VITAL STATISTICS,

### Sanitary Work, &c.,

..... BY .....

### CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. CAMB. &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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EXMOUTH :

PRINTED BY STONE & DELDERFIELD, ROLLE STREET.



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# REPORT.

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Redvers, Exmouth,  
April 11th, 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Exmouth Urban  
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1923, dealing with the general sanitation of the district, etc., and any action taken by your officials in connection therewith. The Report has been modelled on lines similar to that of 1922, thereby facilitating reference.

As recommended by the Ministry of Health, topographical and geological details have been omitted.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 5,295.

Population 12,830.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,264.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 3,483.

Rateable value, £86,628.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £340.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.—140 children were born during the year, 72 males and 68 females, the birth rate per 1,000 being 10.9, as compared with 12.8 in 1922 and 13.6 in 1921. Three of the births were illegitimate. For comparison it may be mentioned that the birth rate for England and Wales is 19.7.

DEATHS.—163 deaths were registered, 74 males and 89 females, the death rate per 1,000 of population being 12.7, as compared with 14.8 in 1922, 13.7 in 1921, and 13.9 in 1920, the death rate for England and Wales being 11.6.

INFANT MORTALITY.—This term indicates the number of children dying under one year of age, and for the sake of uniformity calculated at per 1,000 births. Three infants died, one male and two females (one illegitimate), the infant mortality rate being 20.1, as compared with 54.8 in 1922 and 69 for England and Wales. 20.1 is a very satisfactory infant mortality figure, but I do not think finality has been reached in this category, and I confidently anticipate a further reduction of infantile deaths in the future. If this reduction occurs, the instructions given by all the workers at the Infants' Welfare Centre will have helped to bring about the improvement.

Deaths from measles, nil.

Deaths from whooping cough, nil.

Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age), 1.

There was no outbreak of dangerous infectious disease during the year, nor any unusual mortality due to a special agency, calling for detailed comment.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admit'd to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	nil.	nil.	nil.
Smallpox	nil.	nil.	nil.
Diphtheria	2	nil.	nil.
Scarlatina	18	15	nil.
Enteric Fever	nil.	nil.	nil.
Puerperal Fever	nil.	nil.	nil.
Pneumonia	3	nil.	8
Chicken Pox	13	nil.	nil.
Erysipelas	2	nil.	nil.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Male	Fem'le	Male	Fem'le	Male	Fem'le	Male	Fem'le
0								
1								
5			1	1				1
10								
15			1	1			1	
20					1			
25					1	1	1	
35	1	4		1				
45	3	2		1		1		
55	1				1			
65 upwards		1						
Totals ....	5	7	2	4	3	2	2	1

The Medical Practitioners are assiduous in notifying all cases of infectious disease, including tuberculosis. For this disease sputum flasks are provided gratuitously, and leaflets explaining the precautions to be taken by sufferers to minimise the risk of spreading the disease. Infected houses are disinfected by spraying and by fumigation with formalin, and bedding and other articles are removed and treated in a Rietz steam apparatus with a working temperature of 238° F.

Houses are also occasionally fumigated with sulphur or sprayed with D. solution. 46 houses were disinfected and 48 lots of bedding, etc., were dealt with at the steam disinfector. All the Public Elementary Schools were sprayed during each holiday.

#### SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

THE EXMOUTH DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION continues its good work. The nurses attached to it are in-

defatigable in their onerous duties, and are a great help to the doctors, as well as being a source of comfort to the patients. It is supported by voluntary contributions.

Three midwives practise in the district, under the control of the Devon County Council.

THE MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE CENTRE is held in the Glenorchy School every Friday afternoon. The rooms are spacious, well warmed and efficiently ventilated. Keen interest in the proceedings is taken by the mothers, and good work is being done by all concerned in the management.

THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL contains 10 beds. It is well equipped and up-to-date in every way. Patients are charged a nominal sum, thus bringing the Hospital in line with others in the United Kingdom.

There is no FEVER HOSPITAL in the district. Infectious cases are transferred by motor ambulance to the Whipton Isolation Hospital, a proportion of the expenses being recovered, whenever possible.

As regards SMALLPOX, in the event of a case being notified, the Surveyor has arranged for the immediate erection of huts on Woodbury Common, a suitable site having been obtained, remote from any dwellings, and in close proximity to a water supply. Any anxiety about the isolation of this disease will, we hope, be allayed, when the Central Hospital to be erected by the Devon County Council, is completed. This will meet the needs of the whole county, the various Councils bearing a proportionate share of the expenses.

THE DISPENSARY is available for needy cases, and, judging by the attendances, is greatly appreciated.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—A hand ambulance is provided by the District Council for accidents, but as the majority of these cases are taken to the Hospital (which is some distance from the centre of the town) a motor ambulance would be a great boon.

For infectious cases, the Whipton ambulance is available.



## LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are conducted by the Medical Staff of the Devon County Council. In approved cases, no charge is made.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is always available, and in this case also, it is provided gratuitously to poor persons.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The adoptive Acts and Bye-laws in force in the district with the dates of their adoption, are as follows:—

- (1) Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890—October 15th, 1892.
- (2) Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890—February 3rd, 1892.
- (3) Private Street Works Act, 1892—April 3rd, 1895.
- (4) Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907—July 1st, 1908.

Order of the Secretary of State of the Home Department, dated October 18th, 1909, declaring Sections 79, 82, 83, 85 and 86 of part 7, and parts 8 and 9 were declared to be in force in the district.

Order of Local Government Board, dated Sept. 17th, 1909, declaring parts 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10, and certain sections comprised in part 4 of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907, were declared to be in force within the district.

## EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ACT, 1920.

### BYELAWS.

New Streets and Buildings, approved 12th June, 1923.

Water, Prevention of Waste or Contamination of, approved 4th April, 1904.

Slaughter Houses, approved 30th July, 1901.

Nuisances from the Keeping of Animals, approved 18th September, 1896.

- Pleasure Grounds, Manor Grounds and Strand Enclosure, approved 26th September, 1900.  
 Pleasure Grounds, Phear Park and Beach Gardens, approved 24th January, 1911.  
 Pleasure Grounds, Beach Gardens Extension, approved 8th November, 1913.  
 Pleasure Grounds, Plantation and Madeira Walks, approved 21st October, 1922.  
 Pleasure Grounds, Promenade and Esplanade, approved 13th July, 1923.  
 Public Bathing, approved 10th April, 1911.  
 Ditto Ditto, approved 18th July, 1911.  
 Regulation of Seashore, approved 21st November, 1911.  
 Pleasure Boats and Vessels, approved 1st October, 1920.

### TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

	No.	No. of inspections.
Premises visited	513	
New Drains	9	54
Drains repaired	82	369
Nuisances abated	116	348
Animal nuisances abated	5	19
W.C.'s re-constructed	71	197
Disinfection of bedding	48	102
Disinfection of houses	46	115
Disinfection of public elementary schools	4 times	24
Common lodging houses	1	22
Railway Station lavatories	2	18
Slaughter houses	6	598
Bakehouses	23	84
Dairies and cowsheds	55	172
		—
Total inspections		2122
		—

Places where food is prepared were inspected, including those places where ice cream is prepared during the summer months.

There are 23 bakehouses, and these are limewashed at intervals of six months, and are kept reasonably clean. Most of them are in good structural condition, but in one or two of the older premises the conditions are not quite satisfactory, but the circumstances render it difficult to effect improvements.

There are 6 slaughter-houses in the district—5 registered and 1 licensed—which are in fair structural condition.

Four of those registered are situated in the centre of the town, and their position is unsatisfactory. The other two are situated in the rural area.

Four slaughter-houses used by Exmouth butchers are situated outside the Urban District.

The provision of a public abattoir, wherein the whole of the work could—in time—be concentrated, and where the slaughtering would be carried out under proper conditions, and during specified hours, so that all the carcasses could be officially examined at the time of slaughter, would be a great sanitary improvement, a safeguard to the public, a convenience to some of the butchers, and an economy to the trade as a whole.

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**—There are 55 dairies and cowsheds registered under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1922, and the same are regularly inspected.

Some of the cowsheds are of a primitive type of building, and in some cases the old and unsatisfactory pebble paving and gutters still exist, but improvements are gradually being effected, and the majority are now fairly well paved with concrete or bricks. The sheds are limewashed twice yearly, and are kept reasonably clean, but the condition of the farm yards leaves much to be desired.

Some progress has been made in the cleanliness of milk producing methods, but further improvement is desirable. Clean hands, and the use of clean washable overalls and caps

for milkers, the partial clipping and grooming of cows, the use of a simple steam sterilizing apparatus for the milk vessels, &c., are of great importance in milk production.

Five milkshops were improved by structural alterations, and one was voluntarily closed.

SMOKE.—One complaint of a smoke nuisance from a laundry was satisfactorily dealt with, but there is little room for complaint of smoke nuisances in this district.

SCAVENGING is carried out by direct labour, and house refuse is removed twice a week during the summer months and once per week otherwise.

3,700 tons were removed and burnt in the " Meldrum " destructor.

HOUSING.—Plans for 78 new houses were approved, and 64 new houses were erected.

## WATER.

The district is fortunate in possessing an abundant supply of pure potable water, obtained from two sources: (1) The borehole at Dotton, (2) the watershed at East Budleigh and Bicton Common. Analyses of the water from these two sources are made twice yearly by the County Analyst, and they have invariably been most satisfactory. In his last report the Analyst states, " I have to report that both samples continue unchanged in analytical and in bacteriological purity. They are free from pollutive impurity, and are of satisfactory quality in all respects."

### ANALYSIS

(Parts per hundred thousand).

	High Level Reservoir.	Low Level Reservoir.
Chlorine present as Chlorides .....	2.6	2.6
Nitrogen present as Nitrites .....	0	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates .....	0.1	0.15
Phosphates .....	0	0
Total hardness .....	3.6	4.2

Temporary hardness	.....	.....	1.7	2.1
Permanent hardness	.....	.....	1.9	2.1
Saline Ammonia	.....	.....	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	.....	0.0022	0.0030
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	.....	.....	0.075	0.125
Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron	.....	.....	0	0
Total Solid Constituents	.....	.....	11.0	8.0

As mentioned in last year's report, some discolouration occasionally arises on the admixture of these two waters. Certain atmospheric conditions are the cause of this, but the somewhat brownish colour is only a drawback from an aesthetic point of view, and is quite innocuous to the consumer.

### HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	... ..	64
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	... ..	Nil.

#### I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

##### I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	172
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	... ..	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	1

##### II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers

105

##### III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—		
(a) by owners	... ..	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	.. ..	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	... ..	Nil.

##### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	22
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners ... ..	18
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	4
C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil.
Number of houses closed voluntarily by owners ...	6

A large number of cases of overcrowding have come under my notice, in many instances this being the potential cause of serious physical and moral dangers to the unfortunate individuals concerned. This lamentable state of affairs emphasises the urgent need for houses to be let at a rental proportionate to the wages of the ordinary artisan. Many houses have been erected during the year of the semi-detached and villa type, but these are beyond the means of the class who need housing accommodation. The difficulties which doubtless exist in the economic building of houses of the character indicated may be great, but they are not insuperable, and I am sanguine enough to believe that 1924 will see great strides made in the building trade. The need is urgent, and the Council possess the necessary powers to carry out a scheme if they will only use them.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. The Medical Officer of Health—part time—who also holds the posts of M.O.H. to the Budleigh Salterton Urban District Council; and to the Exeter Port Sanitary Authority.
2. The Sanitary Inspector—Mr. James Wilson—whole time—who holds the following certificates :
  - (a) Sanitary Inspector
  - (b) Meat and Foods
  - (c) Advanced Building Construction.



In addition he acts as Inspector of Hackney Carriages and Petroleum Stores.

In conclusion, the health of the district has been quite satisfactory during the past year ; the death rate and infant mortality are low ; and we have escaped the epidemics (i.e., small-pox, etc.) which have caused so much sickness in other localities. But there is still much to be done, and in the van of future progress I certainly think the efficient housing of the artisan class should occupy the foremost place. I believe all the members of the Council share this opinion.

My best thanks are due to the Clerk, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for their great help in the compilation of this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. BEESLEY,

M.O.H.

## Causes of Death in Exmouth Urban District, 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES.	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES ... ..						74	89
1	Enteric fever	...	...	...	...		
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...		
3	Measles	...	...	...	...		
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...		
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...		
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...		
7	Influenza	...	...	...	...		1
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...		
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...		
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	4	3
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	2	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	10	23
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	1	
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	6	12
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	16	16
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	5	1
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	3
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3	5
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...		
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...		
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...		
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	1
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...		
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...		
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...		
29	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	1	
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	16	20
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	1	
Special Causes (included above)							
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...		
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...		
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—							
	Total	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...		1
TOTAL BIRTHS						72	68
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	72	65
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...		3
POPULATION						12830	









